

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02
/053 W

-----021025 052241Z /61

R 050837Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB BC
SUBJ: TLHAODI STATEMENTS CONTINUE BFTU SPLIT

REF: GABORONE 1520

1. RAILWAY WORKERS UNION LEADER PELOTELELE TLHAODI RECENTLY REPLIED TO GOB HOME AFFAIRS PERMSEC MATENG'S CRITICISM OF SPLIT ON GOVERNING COUNCIL OF BOTSWANA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. IN SPEECH TO GRADUATES OF A LABOR ECONOMICS SEMINAR, TLHAODI CLAIMED NO SPLIT EXISTED WITHIN BFTU AND DISMISSED MATENG'S ALLEGATIONS THAT SPLIT IS HAMPERING PROGRESS OF BOTSWANA'S TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS REPORT, TLHAODI SAID THAT BFTU LEADERS WERE CHOSEN "CONSTITUTIONALLY, ON THE BASIS OF A MAJORITY RULE" AND PLEDGED THAT LABOR MOVEMENT WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM ITS "DEMOCRATIC COURSE". ARTICLE REFERRED TO TLHAODI AS "PRESIDENT" OF BFTU.

2. EMBOFFS ATTENDED JUNE 23 GRADUATION EXERCISE OF LABOR ECONOMICS SEMINAR AT WHICH GOB MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE KWELAGOB WAS FEATURED SPEAKER. TLHAODI
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AND FREDERICH EBERT FOUNDATION REP HELFER (WHO SPONSORED SEMINAR) GREETED KWELAGOB AND WERE SEATED WITH HIM AT FRONT OF THE CLASS. AFTER KWELAGOB GAVE BLAND SPEECH WHICH MADE NO MENTION OF BFTU'S INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, TLHAODI ROSE TO DELIVER A SHORT SPEECH IN WHICH HE WARNED SEMINAR GRADUATES OF "INTERNAL ENEMIES" WITHIN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE THANKED EBERT FOUNDATION FOR SPONSORING SEMINAR AND

EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FOREIGN ADVISORS WOULD CONTINUE TO FUND ACTIVITIES OF BOTSWANA LABOR CENTER. HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT BFTU WOULD NOT ACCEPT "DICTATION" BY FOREIGN ADVISORS.

3. AALC ADVISORS JOHNSON AND TAYLOR BELIEVE BFTU SPLIT HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED, DESPITE TLHAODI'S CLAIMS. THEY POINT OUT THAT SPLIT IS HOLDING UP TRANSFER TO BFTU OF BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED WITH AALC FUNDS BECAUSE DIVIDED BFTU COUNCIL IS NOT ABLE TO PASS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR BFTU TO HOLD LAND AND BUILDINGS. MOREOVER, TAYLOR SUGGESTED THAT BFTU GENERAL FINANCIAL COMMITTEE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE ON FUNDING FOR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF THE SPLIT.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS CLAIMS OF VICTORY, TLHAODI CONTINUES TO BE APPREHENSIVE OF ACTIVITIES OF "ENEMIES" WITHIN BFTU, PRESUMABLY THE FACTION LED BY GENERAL SECRETARY SETLHARE. MOREOVER, SETLHARE FACTION STILL RETAINS IMPORTANT POSITIONS ON BFTU BODIES WHICH DISPOSE OF FUNDS, INCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FOREIGN ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABOR002070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780276-0475
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780796/aaaadcasy.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb14fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GABORONE 1520
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2118321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TLHAODI STATEMENTS CONTINUE BFTU SPLIT
TAGS: ELAB, BC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb14fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014